

Dear RETI Stakeholders,

I must first convey my concern and disappointment about the insufficient time frame that was given to provide comments on a 250+ pages document. I was out of the office for two and a half weeks including the week that email was sent out. I do think that this time frame is consistent with RETI's claim at transparency and addressing environmental concerns. Concerning the document specifically, I am concerned with the treatment of environmental concerns in the draft work plan. Furthermore, I urge the group to seek a more stringent screening process to determine the available renewable resources as well as appropriate sites for generation and transmission. There are many conservation areas that are not federally protected wilderness, etc. that should be completely avoided and excluded from any development, including that for renewable energy. Existing federally designated transmission corridors need to be used for new transmission projects to protect our public lands and the public trust. The ranking of "renewable energy zones" must include environmental factors and these factors should be weighted equally with economic factors, mandate deadlines, etc.

Since I have just returned to the office, I will submit additional comments when I have given the report further review. I look forward to further comment opportunities and a document that reflects more environmental sensitivity.

Thank you.

Best,

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